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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:	Bjorn PAULSHUS et al.)	Group Art Unit No: 3637
)	
Serial No:	09/871,608)	Legal Instruments Examiner:
)	Tonya McBride
)	
Filed:	May 31, 2001)	Attorney Docket No. 7822-82871
)	
For:	TENSION MEMBER)	Confirmation No. 1151

REPLY TO NOTICE OF NON-COMPLIANT AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Amendment-No Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-0001

Sir:

In response to the Notice of Non-Complaint Amendment mailed on April 8, 2004, the following corrected Amendment to the claims section of applicants' Amendment filed on January 21, 2003, is resubmitted for consideration of the Legal Instruments Examiner and Patent Examiner.

In the Claims

Claim 11: (currently amended) A tension member, comprising a plurality of fiber filaments gathered into a plurality of strands in which the filaments run close together, around which strands there is provided a protective sheath, wherein between at least some of the strands and the protective sheath there are provided spacing elements, which spacing elements define an inner continuous cavity adapted to receive a plurality of strands, said cavity having a cross section corresponding to, at least, approximately the total cross section of all the strands, and that each strand is coated on the exterior thereof with sheath of a material having a low friction coefficient, permitting the strands to move longitudinally in relation to one another and independently of each other.

Claim 12: (original) The tension member according to claim 11, wherein the sheath consists of polyethylene or polyurethane.

Claim 13: (original) The tension member according to claim 11, wherein the spacing elements are provided with recesses, which recesses are adapted to the cross-sectional form of the adjacent strands.

Claim 14: (original) The tension member according to claims 13, wherein the spacing elements are equipped with complementary locking elements or their adjoining surfaces.

Claim 15: (original) The tension member according to claim 11, wherein at least one of the spacing elements comprises a material having buoyancy in water.

Claim 16: (original) The tension member according to claim 11, wherein the spacing elements consist of PVC.

Claim 17: (original) The tension member according to claim 11, wherein the spacing elements consist of a material having buoyancy in water.

Claim 18: (original) The tension member according to claim 11, wherein the filaments are wound at a maximum pitch corresponding to the circumference of a drum onto which the strands are to be coiled.

Claim 19: (original) The tension member according to claim 11, wherein the strands are wound at a maximum pitch corresponding to the circumference of a drum onto which the tension member is to be coiled.

Remarks

Reconsideration and further examination of the above-identified patent application in light of the present Amendment and Remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully requests entry of the above-noted Amendment.

The Amendment to the claims section of applicant's amendment filed on January 21, 2003 now complies with requirements of 37 CFR 1.121 as amended on June 30, 2003 and the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment under 37 CFR 1.121.